



# BARS Billerica Amateur Radio Society

## NEWS FOR AND BY BARS MEMBERS

JULY 2025

For the summer, BARS meetings will only be on Zoom.

### A Message from the President By Doug Bruce, N1WRN

Greetings, Fellow Members,

I hope everyone is having a great summer so far. As I write this, the days are starting to get shorter! Summertime isn't the greatest for the ham bands except for maybe 15, 20, and 30 meters. Nighttime is good on most bands except for these three. 160, as we all know, is a nighttime winter-only band. All year, though, it is best to pay attention to the local sunrise and local sunset times for the best chances to work the station that you want to make contact with.

You have to be on when HE is on, not at your convenience! I learned this the other night when I came down to make sure my station was shut down properly for the night. This was about 12:30 AM EDT or 04:30 UTC. Just for the heck of it, I turned the radio on and went to 20 meters and Lo and behold, I saw New Caledonia and New Zealand bombing in on FT8! I then went to Log4OM2 and checked where the gray line was at that time. It was directly in between New Caledonia and New Zealand and the local sunset there was 04:30 UTC per QRZ! I worked both countries and logged them rather easily!

Recently, I downloaded a book online entitled "The Little Pistol's Guide to HF Propagation" This is a wonderful 75 page book that goes from soup to nuts discussing HF Propagation for the "Little Pistol" DXer. I happen to fall into that category now, as I am still learning about propagation and the like. I have 185 countries logged and I am about 80 % there as I work towards my 5 band DXCC Award.

My Elmer qualifies as a "Big Gun" DXer as he has 340 confirmed countries over 10 bands and he is at the Top of the Honor Roll! I am extremely fortunate to have him as my Elmer. He has been instrumental in my development as a ham radio operator. He constantly reminding me of when to work what bands to make contacts and increase my country totals on the bands. Whether you are a Little Pistol or a Big Gun DXer, the object of the hobby is to Get On The Air, which is our Club Motto!

On another note, you will be reading this after the conclusion of Field Day 2025. I wish to thank Nan and Mike for being most gracious hosts for us for Field Day. I want to let everyone know that on Monday June 23 a group of us (Kevin Fallon KB1KTR, Mark Nelson KA1INE Field Day Director, Jim Evans, N1HTS, Doug Bruce, N1WRN, and Tim Carter, K1DC) went to the Billerica EOC and cleaned out all of the BARS equipment at that site, as we will no longer be using it for our Field Day. Hopefully Nan and Mike will allow us to host for a few years. We got rave reviews from Club Members when we had Field there a few years ago, so having it at Nan's was a logical choice. We will be playing by Nan's ground rules so that we will be able to be invited back next year! Again kudos to Nan for being an accommodating hostess for the event!

Lastly, we are always looking for suggestions for "Theme Nights" at our in person meetings which will resume in September. Last night we were batting around a few ideas, such as building baluns, building antennas or ether ham radio kits for Club members who chose to attend in person. You can email the BARS email at [bars@w1hh.org](mailto:bars@w1hh.org) with any suggestions. As always, we are a GOTA Club, so key up that mike and make some contacts! That is what our great hobby is all about!

Until next time,

73,  
Doug  
N1WRN

## Next BARS meeting: July 2 at 7:00 PM - “Portable and Field Operations” Speaker: Anthony Luscre, K8ZT

I would like to announce our Guest Speaker for the July 2, 2025, Zoom only club meeting. We will have Anthony Luscre, K8ZT, give his talk on Portable and Field Operations. We have had Anthony in the past and he was well received, so you won't want to miss this presentation!

Here is Anthony's biography:

- First licensed in 1981 as KA8NRC, Anthony has been a QRP operator from his very first QSO (no one told him Novices should not start with a 2-watt QRP rig).
- He changed his callsign to K8ZT in June 2000 after upgrading to an Extra Class License.
- Anthony enjoys sharing his Amateur Radio interests with others by maintaining websites, including [www.k8zt.com](http://www.k8zt.com), writing articles for a variety of publications, developing an online course for the ARRL and doing hundreds of club presentations both virtually and in person.
- He also serves as ARRL Ohio Section Youth Coordinator.
- He is active in a variety of Amateur Radio activities, but his favorite activity is operating! Whether it is contesting, DXing, rag chewing, satellites, etc. CW, phone or digital, the QRP contacts have added up and are now top 115,000.
- First drawn to contesting by his love of working DX, he has consistently finished in the top ten of various major contests and finished first in the World and US in both CQ Worldwide Phone and CW QRP categories multiple times.
- As a bonus, his QRP DXCC total recently topped the 328 mark, and he has completed 11-band WAS QRP.



We will announce the link to join the Zoom meeting before the meeting, but it will be posted to the BARS email list and should not be shared outside our Club. Are you on the email list? If not, please send an email to [bars-subscribe@w1hh.org](mailto:bars-subscribe@w1hh.org) and then

simply reply to the robot response from the server and you will be subscribed.

Observing our Zoom meeting requires only a web browser and headphones/speakers. You do not need a webcam or microphone unless you want to speak or be seen.

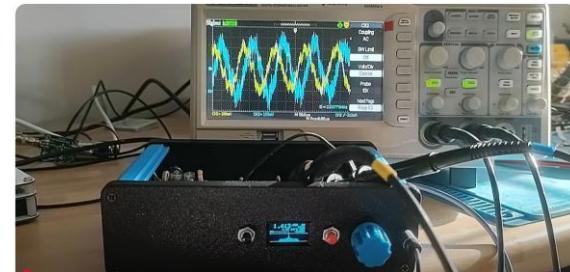
Before our meeting date, please go to <https://zoom.us/test> and see if it will function for you. If you have problems, we can try to assist – feel free to ask questions on the BARS email list.

I am looking forward to “seeing” many of you there on Wednesday, 7/2, at 1900.

Doug, N1WRN  
President, Billerica Amateur Radio Society

## From the Editor's Desk By Marla Wallace, WA1GSF

Those of you who know me know that I'm somewhat of a tinkerer. The other day, I came across a four-part series of YouTube videos describing a simple HF software-defined receiver. I estimate that the basic receiver is a “long weekend” project (i.e.: under a week to build) and the parts cost will be around \$100. The software is free, downloadable. There are even files for a 3D-printed case to put it in.



The receiver uses a Raspberry Pi Pico microcontroller chip, which is going to set you back a whole \$5 (\$10 if you don't do a thorough search) and most of the other parts – and there aren't very many – are even cheaper. It can be run on three AA batteries. (I'd spring for a “power tank” rechargeable battery or run it off a 5V wall wart.)

It looks like a fun project and might be nice paired with a QRP transmitter. And you will learn something about the technology that's now commonly the heart of modern HF gear. Or it could be made as a gift for a budding SWLer.

The first of the videos is at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ls1ZRMIYLjA>  
It describes the basic form of the project.

The second video talks about elaborations to the design and substitution of equivalent (or better performing) parts.

The third video shows some other people's take on constructing the receiver and describes how to add a second display for showing a waterfall, something we've come to expect from SDR technology, and improvements to the signal processing software algorithms including synchronous AM detection.

Part 4 starts off by adding the ability to receive SSTV (Slow Scan Television) with the simply changes to the software to support the feature, using the secondary display added in the previous video.

## Feature Article: Restoring a Nice Piece of Test Gear

By Juan Jiménez, K1CPR

For those of you who don't read the mailing list emails, I am a fan of [GovPlanet.com](http://GovPlanet.com), a web site run by the Ritchie Brothers organization which sells surplus equipment, mostly military. I like to cruise it mostly to feed my wild dreams of finding a military aircraft at a good price. (Yeah, right...)

However, once in a while I find something worth bidding on. Many months ago it was a Panasonic digital projector, which when I received it turned out to be a very expensive short-throw, high-definition projector of the type used on commercial flight and military combat simulators. Just the lens alone turned out to be worth a small fortune. I made a good profit on that once I cleaned it up and bought a remote control.

A couple of weeks ago I was surfing the site again when I found an intriguing listing for a communications test system, a Motorola R2001D/HS. (The HS stands for the High Stability oscillator option.) It had no information as far as condition but I saw that it had a small green tag in the front, which usually says the last time it was calibrated. Green means it passed. But when I did a little research, I was floored.



Front of the R2001D

The R2001D is the Swiss Army Knife of communications test equipment. There are quite a few techs and repair shops online who describe it as the only piece of test equipment they use. This one's last owner was shown as the US Coast Guard, if I am reading the cryptic acronyms correctly. It then went to the Navy's central tech repair center, and then to surplus storage before it landed at GovPlanet.



A Better View of the Front Panel

I was skeptical until I read the specs:

- Frequency Range: 10 kHz to 1000 MHz (1 GHz).
- Modes: AM, FM, SSB, CW (monitor) and AM, FM, DSBSC, CW (generator).
- RF Power Output: 0.1 uV to 0.4 VRMS (AM), 0.1 uV to 1 VRMS (FM).
- Monitor Mode: Measures frequency from 1MHz to 999.9999MHz with a resolution of 100Hz.
- Signal Generator Mode: 10 kHz to 999.9999 MHz with 100 Hz resolution, and output from 0.1 uV to 1Vrms (FM) and 0.4 Vrms (AM) according to Test Equipment Connection.

Other Features:

- Built-in spectrum analyzer
- Duplex generator
- Oscilloscope
- Frequency counter
- AC/DC voltmeter
- Cable fault finder
- RF wattmeter
- Signal strength meter
- Signaling simulator
- SINAD/distortion meter
- Sweep generator

Wow indeed!

I decided I had to have it, so I bid, had a few small skirmishes with a few competitors, and won the auction. Rather than pay \$500 for freight, I decided to drive to Central PA on a Sunday, picked it up Monday morning and drove back to Boston. In the process I found out the entire region of Central PA smells

uniformly of manure this time of the year. Unless you grew up with that ohdear... odour! You'll be glad for a good air filter on your car's A/C.

When I got home, I found out that it would start and nothing smoked, which was a good sign, but the 12v 10Ah Lead-Acid battery back was dead, it was missing rubber bumper legs and some screws, and the double-section potentiometer for the old-school green CRT tube's intensity and focus was very wonky.



**Big, Heavy 12V Battery Pack That Was Dead as a Doornail**

Fast forward two weeks and now I have a rebuild battery pack with a dozen 2v 5Ah (\$25 each!) cells that can run the box for a couple of hours and recharges all the time as long as it is plugged in to AC power, new rubber bumper legs, and a little vigorous turning of the pot knobs apparently cleaned the contacts.



**The old, tired and corroded-terminal battery cells, on their way to a new life at the Woburn Lowe's battery recycling container.**

Now I must dive into the user's manual to move from "I'm dangerous with this thing" to "I know how to use it." I had been planning to equip my shack with enough gear to be able to perform modest testing and repair tasks, but this totally simplifies that goal.

## Announcements

### Looking for operators from New Hampshire to join the K2K team

I'm excited to invite you to be an operator of the K2K team from New Hampshire for the 13 Colonies Special Event, taking place July 1–7, 2025!

This annual event, which celebrates the original 13 American colonies, is a fantastic opportunity to engage with fellow amateur radio operators from around the world, enjoy the camaraderie and teamwork of the K2K team, and contribute to a memorable and historic event.

We welcome operators of all experience levels and will provide the support and guidance needed to make the experience both successful and fun for everyone.

To confirm your participation, please send a quick email to [k2k@hamlog.online](mailto:k2k@hamlog.online)

Feel free to share this invitation with your fellow amateur radio friends who might be interested in joining the fun!

Looking forward to hearing from you!

--

73 de W1UAA, Eugene  
K2K manager

### The Northeast HamXposition is coming soon!

(This is what many of us old-timers remember as Boxborough.)

We are working hard to improve HamX by bringing in more vendors, more sponsors, better forums, a better flea market, and great prizes. We also need help from clubs to promote HamX within the local clubs. We need more participation that gets more vendors excited to attend.

For example, the Friday night DX themed banquet is sponsored by DX Engineering this year. DXE has donated a \$3300 Icom IC-7610 HF transceiver.

As of now, there is \$8000 in door prizes to be awarded, and we expect more. If you attend Saturday night's banquet, you could win a Yaesu FT-710 Field. There are some great prizes that will be awarded at Sunday afternoon's door prize drawings, too.

We need your help publicizing HamX and urging your members to attend. *[therefore, we are running this announcement in the BARS newsletter through the August issue – ed.]*

Larry, W1AST  
Chair, HamXposition Marketing & Promotion  
Chair, HamXposition Prizes



## World Wide Award July Sprint starts on Monday, 6/30!

If you didn't get enough radio fun during Field Day I have another activity that starts the next day!

The World Wide Award is a new kind of contest - it includes real-time scoring, 10M - 80M including WARC bands, all modes, and allows for multiple contacts with the activating stations over a long duration event. Some of you will know that I was an OP on the N1W event station in January. The January version of the event lasts for the entire month. The July 'sprint' version runs for only 7 days starting at 0000Z on the 29th.

At present there are 68 activators registered and I expect a few more will join before the event begins. Many will have special event calls that include 'WWA'. This could be a good way to catch a few new DXCC entities. You can find the teams listed here: <https://hamaward.cloud/wwa/teams> and they will be spotted on the usual clusters. (Doug, DU0WWA from the Philippines has a large team so should be easy to catch).

I'll be splitting my time between this event as N1W and 13 Colonies event (more on this one later) as K1H. Hopefully I won't drive Lori, my office and life partner, crazy to the point where she starts chucking office supplies at me! ;-)

You can find details of the event here: <https://hamaward.cloud/wwa> and a nice video discussion here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOQmcuuT8k>

--de Tim, K1DC

## Strays

Becoming an ARRL member or is your membership up for renewal?

One of the benefits of being an ARRL Affiliated Club is a commission for recruiting new ARRL members and securing timely ARRL member renewals.

Each new ARRL member earns the club a \$15.00 commission. New members are defined as never having been a member or a returning member that has not been a member for two years. Each renewal earns the club a \$5.00 commission. There is no limit to the amount a club can earn in this program.

Multiyear memberships earn only one commission. Life, Family, International, Blind, and Student memberships are not eligible for a commission. The member will not be eligible to receive a gift or incentive if the club collects a commission on the membership.

At least 82 BARS members are also ARRL members. If we all renewed through the club, we could potentially receive \$410 per year from the ARRL.

If you are interested in renewing your ARRL membership through the club fill out the following form [ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application \(pdf\)](#). Then forward it to [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.com)

## Making ZOOM available to Elmers

In this time of social distancing, we have been using Zoom for our monthly club meetings. I have been thinking that Elmers could also be using Zoom to coach new hams instead of actually going to visit with them. Elmers could perhaps help with programming a new radio with the new ham sharing their computer screen and the Elmer helping to walk them through the process. An Elmer could have Zoom on their cell phone and show a new ham how their shack was set up. Use your imagination and see how you might use this tool. If you would like to use Zoom for this, contact Bruce, [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.com), with a date and a time and a meeting will be setup for you. You may also contact Bruce if you would like training in using Zoom to Elmer someone.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

## Friday and Sunday Night CW Slow Speed Contest

Every Friday and Sunday night, there is a weekly slow-speed CW contest run by the local K1USN guys. This is a good way to polish up your CW skills. See <http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html> for details. Currently, the schedule is:

Fridays 20:00-21:00 UTC (3-4pm EST) and  
Mondays 00:00-01:00 UTC (7-8pm EST Sunday).



-- de Tom Walsh, K1TW

#### Another recurring event:

Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) Weekend Sprintathon – the Saturday following the 6<sup>th</sup> of every month at 1200 UTC  
[http://www.skccgroup.com/operating\\_activities/weekend\\_sprintathon](http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekend_sprintathon)

#### Is your Email address on the FCC site up to date?

##### *§ 97.23 Mailing and email addresses.*

*Each license grant must show the grantee's correct name, mailing address, and email address. The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence. Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.*

*[85 FR 85533, Dec. 29, 2020]*

I recommend that you log on to the “your FCC Registration” at <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/updateRegistrationPre.do> to make sure that your email address is up to date. Also, in the future should you change your home address, or your email address be sure to remember to update it on the FCC site.

*[The \$35 FCC application fee applies to new, renewal, rule waiver, and modification applications that request a new vanity call sign. The fee will be per application.*

*Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, and modification applications to upgrade an*

*amateur radio licensee's operator class or to request a sequentially issued call sign, are exempt from fees. – ed.]*

--de Bruce, W1LUS

#### Upgrading Your License? Here's a Resource

If you are thinking of upgrading your license using one of the Online exam sites. I recommend that you take some free practice exams on HamStudy.org. I recommend it because the software used to generate practice exams on HamStudy.org is the same software that is used to create exams for online tests. By doing that when you take an online upgrade exam the test question format will be familiar. With HamStudy.org practice tests you should use the keyboard to select the answer, A, B, C, or D and not your mouse as that is the way online exams are run.

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

#### Secretary's Reports

from Marla Wallace, WA1GSF, Secretary

#### June 4th General Meeting Minutes

Doug called the meeting to order 7:10. The meeting, as previously announced, was conducted via Zoom only.

Club business & announcements:

- There will be no program tonight.
- On Saturday the club will survey the FD site (Nan's, NK1A).
- Likely the same person for FD food as last year.
- K1DC will do the IT for the operation.
- The club must remove equipment from old FD site after this year's FD – the building will be torn down.
- The club approved \$400 for FD expenses.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40.

There were 13 participants.

#### June 16<sup>th</sup> BARS Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors met at 7:00 via Zoom.

Attending were:

- Marla, WA1GSF
- Bruce, W1LUS
- Doug, N1WRN
- Jim, N1HTS
- Mike, K1TWF
- Nancy,
- Mark, KA1INE
- Tim, K1DC

Business:

- IT is all set. Rigs have been collected.
- The chef is identified, will be contacted.

- Publicity is not done. Banners? Invite public? WCAP? Radiograms? - yes, FDlocator for site entered? - yes.
- Gear at EOC to be picked up on Monday.
- Overnight operation is possible, but no operators known.
- Photography? – unknown.
- Safety officer? – unspecified.
- Parking in the lot at the shop across the street has been arranged.
- Office supplies? – tbd.
- Scoring and submission - K1DC will do it.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50.

## BARS Membership

Our current combined membership is 150. There are nine members that haven't renewed for 2025.

Anyone with a question about their renewal status can email me at [W1LUS@hotmail.com](mailto:W1LUS@hotmail.com) to get your current membership status.

from Bruce Anderson, W1LUS, Treasurer

## 2025 BARS Member Dues

A \$15 annual BARS membership begins on January 1<sup>st</sup> and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Any renewal or new membership made after September 1<sup>st</sup> will be valid until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the following year. Memberships allow us to

- pay our bills,
- maintain our great web page,
- fund field day,
- and bring the membership a great variety of informative meetings and speakers.

## Treasurers Report for July 2025

Dues for 2025 are now due. Dues for 2025 will remain at \$15. Dues can be paid several ways:

- via bank-to-bank transfer with Zelle, Venmo, PayPal, etc. by sending \$15 to [bars.dues@outlook.com](mailto:bars.dues@outlook.com),
- with credit card by using the Join/Renewal membership form on the W1HH.org website,
- or with cash or check by mailing \$15 to Billerica ARS, 16 Regis Road, Tewksbury, MA 01876

In June, we had one renewal for \$15 income. Our expenses were Zoom \$18.05, and PayPal \$1.01. We now have \$676.97 in the bank and \$1901.06 in our PayPal account for a total of \$2577.85

Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

## BARS Does breakfast every Saturday.

On Saturday mornings at 8:15AM, we meet for a casual, social breakfast at Stelio's restaurant in Billerica.

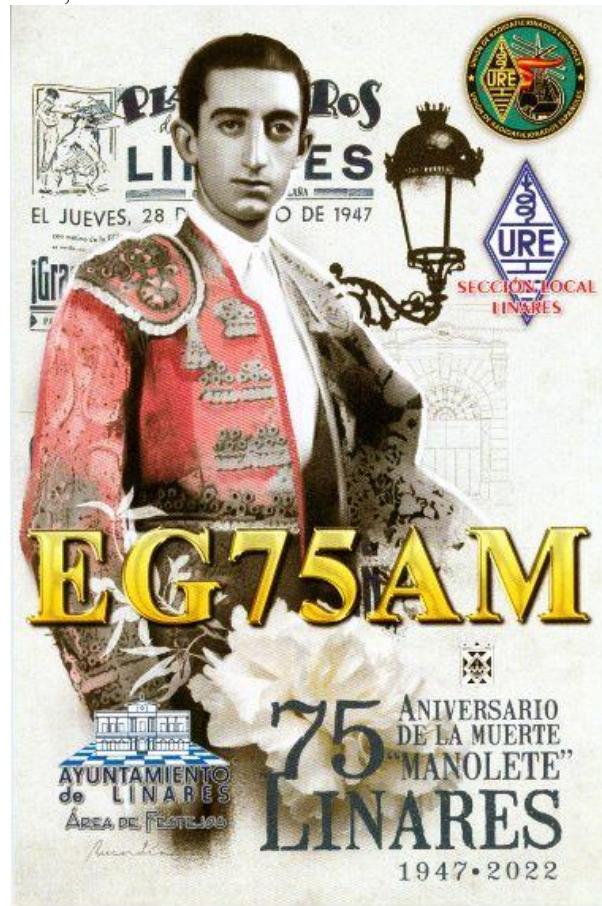
[Stelio's Family Restaurant, Billerica, MA](#)

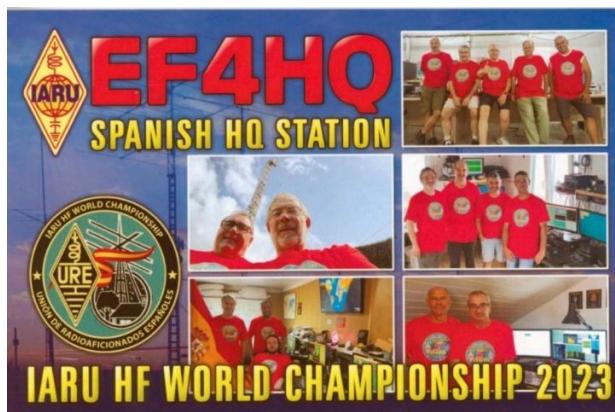
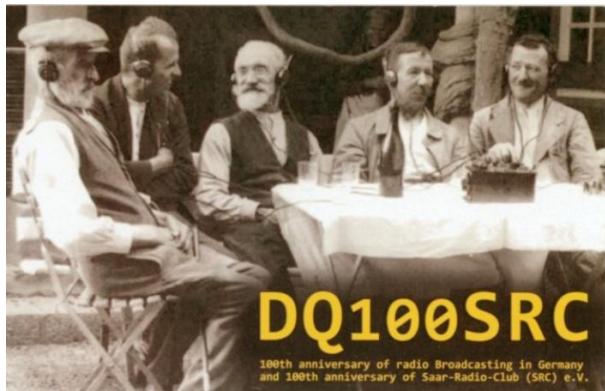
## Photo Feature: From the Mailbag

I lamented to a fellow ham yesterday, "The more retired I become the less free time I have.". This is certainly true lately as I participate in the preparations for the BARS Field Day extravaganza, prepare for not one but TWO special event operations that I will be activating (World Wide Award and 13 Colonies) and the summer music festival season where I exercise my other time sink, photography.

The consequence, dear reader, is a woefully anemic column this month. Inspired by upcoming events, I chose special event station cards for the theme this month.

--de Tim, K1DC





What interesting/meaningful cards have you received? Send a scan of them to [k1dc.radio@gmail.com](mailto:k1dc.radio@gmail.com) (who instigated this new column), or directly to me (see the masthead for my email address), and we'll share them with the group. Extra credit if they have a story to go with them!

## July Get-on-the-Air Suggestions from Andy Wallace, KA1GTT

KA1GTT Andy Wallace here. I am offering my input for this month's Get on the Air column. These are contests which can be on HF or VHF/UHF, and may be SSB (voice), CW (Morse code) or digital (FT8 etc) modes. If you are a beginner, contests can still be a lot of fun. Most of the time the rules expect you to submit electronic logs of your activity, but I know hams who simply want to exchange QSLs for confirmation.

Contests can be frantic - rapid exchanges (what info the stations pass back and forth) and careful rules of engagement. But others are more casual. It always helps to tune in stations and listen to the exchange, and get a feel for the methods.

One of the best resources for finding out what contests are upcoming is the WA7BNM website and his 8-day contest calendar at:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php>

This gives a snapshot of the next 8 days and you can instantly see what contests are longer term (like across weekends) and thus more popular.

The 12-month calendar is excellent for getting a snapshot of an entire month in advance. Surprisingly, I find it has more contests listed than the "Perpetual" site view. The 12 month is what I used to compile this month's hot contests.

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.php>

Of note: contests are listed in UTC (Coordinated Universal Time or Greenwich Mean Time or Zulu) day and date. This is the time going through the 0-degree meridian (Greenwich, U.K.). If you are new to hamming you need to know hams historically use UTC to align with hams around the world in a way that being on the air at a certain time is simple. We're in Eastern Daylight Time right now, so that means UTC is 4 hours ahead of us. 0000Z being midnight Zulu/UTC/GMT translates to 8:00 PM EDT. So taking for example the May 10-10 contest listed in the May edition of the newsletter, the start of the contest was 00:01UTC May 3 (Saturday). Subtract four hours and you better have your rig ready at 8:01PM EDT Friday evening. Get it? And for Eastern Standard Time we'd be 5 hours behind.

Here is KA1GTT's list of top contests for July 2025 - and please remember these are best-guesses on my part.

1. YOTA (Youth On The Air) Contest  
<https://yotacontest.mrasz.org/>  
1000Z-2159Z, Jul 19, 2025  
Exchange: Single Op: RS(T) + age (on Jan 1 of year of contest)  
Multi-Op: RS(T) + average age of ops (on Jan 1 of year of contest)  
Comments: this is a Hungarian organization, but hopefully it has worldwide interest and you can get on the air and work younger operators!

2. North American QSO Party, RTTY  
<https://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>  
1800Z, Jul 19 to 0559Z, Jul 20, 2025  
Exchange: NA: Name + (state/DC/province/country)  
Comments: RTTY stands for Radio Teletype. In the old days it meant hooking an interface and a large, heavy, oily electromechanical typewriter like an ASR13 (if I remember right) to your radio. Nowadays all you need is the software and a USB cable to your transceiver, most likely. RTTY allows actual conversations, unlike FT8, and can be very fun when the contests like this are on. Is there an RTTY enthusiast in BARS who can perhaps demo this for us someday?
3. MARAC US Counties QSO \*\*  
<http://www.marac.org/contests.htm>  
0000Z, Jul 26 to 2400Z, Jul 27, 2025  
Exchange: RS(T) + (state+county/"DX")  
Comments: for those who like to collect things, any county hunter contest can be a blast! Many times a rare county will be on the air and the pileups (many operators vying for his or her attention) will be incredible. Imagine snagging Nantucket or some rare Alaskan wilderness county!
4. FOC Old School Classic 1960s QSO Party  
<https://www.g4foc.org/foc-old-school-classic-1960s-qso-party/>  
0000Z-2359Z, Jul 5, 2025  
Exchange: Real RST + 3-letter class + year first licensed + name  
Comments: this back-to-the-future contest is CW (Morse code) only and looks like fun. In fact with extra points for using vintage gear I might drag out my Drake novice station (2-C receiver, 2-CQ speaker/Q multiplier, 2-NT crystal-controlled CW transmitter). Or if I am less ambitious, my Ten-Tec Century 21 solid state Novice rig! And as many know I am a fan of mechanical CW using straight keys and bugs. (<https://www.qrz.com/db/KA1GTT>)

### \*\* Top recommendation for this month

Final comment: Summer doldrums are apparently here! Not too many contests this month. I guess we should make the most of the weather with beach days and cookouts!

Reminder: details on each of these contests above – and more events – can be found every week on the WA7BNM contest calendar at:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/weeklycont.php?mode=custom&week=current>

## BARS Needs You!!!

We are looking for a few good hams to act as net control on the regularly scheduled Wednesday night nets! All it takes is one night a month; if you are interested contact Doug, N1WRN.

Also, the club needs volunteers for light tasks of about 1 hour a month. Are you able to pitch in? Contact Doug Bruce, N1WRN.

## Wednesday Night Net

Join us on the Westford 146.955 Repeater for the weekly BARS net each Wednesday at 8:00 PM (**except on the first Wednesday of the month which is club meeting night**). *Note: Thanks to the Westford Police Amateur Radio Team (PART) for their generous act of making their repeater available to us.*

Repeater info:  
WB1GOF  
146.955 MHz  
-600 kHz (normal) offset  
Encode CTCSS 74.4 Hz

Reminder: “kerchunking” the repeater is not only impolite, it’s illegal. It constitutes an unidentified transmission. If you need to check that you’re making the repeater, say something like “This is <your call> standing by on the frequency.” Thanks for your courtesy.

## Club Meetings

Club meetings are held in person (weather permitting) and via Zoom. A link will be sent via the BARS email reflector to all currently paid-up members who might wish to attend via Zoom.

Club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM Eastern time.

## VE Sessions

Our VE sessions are held in-person at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Pre-registration for our in-person exams is suggested. Contact [w1lus@hotmail.com](mailto:w1lus@hotmail.com) for registration information.

VE sessions are held every month on the 2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM at Chelmsford Bible Church, 128 Gorham St., Chelmsford MA. Park in back and enter by rear door. [Chelmsford Bible Church Hall, 128 Gorham St, Rear Door, Chelmsford MA 01824-3220 \(map\)](#)

## VE Session Report for June 2025

We had Two people show up for the June 11 VE exam session. Results were Two new Technicians, Joe, KC1WXS, and Dwight KC1WXT. Be sure to say hello if you hear them on the air. Our

next exam session will be on July 10 at 7:00 PM, at the Chelmsford Bible Church. Thanks to Gary, W1GFF; Shawn, N1CVO; Peter, N1ALO; and Bill, W1ZL for their help conducting this exam session. While walk-ins are still welcome it speeds the process up if you pre-register for your BARS VE exam session at [HamStudy.org](http://HamStudy.org).

--de Bruce Anderson, W1LUS

## Future Meetings

The next BARS General Meeting will be held via Zoom \*only\* on August 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. A Zoom link will be sent in the club email feed prior to the meeting.

## Subscribe to the BARS Mailing List

To subscribe to the BARS email list, send a blank email to [bars-subscribe@w1hh.org](mailto:bars-subscribe@w1hh.org) and watch for an automated reply. Note that bars-subscribe is all one word.

Reply to that message from the list server and you are then subscribed.

To post to the list, address your email to [bars@w1hh.org](mailto:bars@w1hh.org)

## BARS Leadership Team

### OFFICERS:

President: Doug Bruce, N1WRN  
Vice President: Mark Nelson, KA1INE  
Treasurer: Bruce Anderson, W1LUS  
Secretary: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF  
BoD: Bill Poulin, WZ1L  
BoD: Steve Wedge, W1ES/4  
Ex Officio: Gary Frasarelli, W1GFF

### VOLUNTEERS:

Net Coordinator: Doug Bruce, N1WRN  
Newsletter Editor: Marla Wallace, WA1GSF  
New Member Outreach: John Fisher, KC1FTJ  
Field Day Chair: Mark Nelson, KA1INE